



Sitka Trail Works, Inc

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Deborah A. Lyons, Executive Director

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Jeff Ottesen, Director Division of Program Development
Dept. of Transportation and Public Facilities
3132 Channel Drive, Suite 200
Juneau, AK 99801-7898

December 8, 2005

Re: Sawmill Creek Road project #10064 & Indian River Bridge

Dear Mr. Ottesen,

Because of existing conflicts between motorized and non-motorized users of Sawmill Creek Road improvements to this roadway are a very high priority to Sitka Trail Works and our member households. The project is the number one priority project in the entire Sitka Trail Plan because of the unsafe conditions that exist. I am writing today to request that the Phase II improvements to Sawmill Creek Road from Shotgun Alley to Whale Park go ahead as originally planned and not be deferred as is being proposed.

Sitkans deserve a clean and safe environment in which to walk, bike, run and drive and delaying the proposed improvements to one of the main arteries of the Sitka road system perpetuates polluted water bodies and conflicts between motorists and non-motorized users of the road. It is nothing short of irresponsible, arbitrary and capricious to now delay this project with such short notice. Matching funding has been arranged by the City and Borough of Sitka, staff time has been allocated and budgets set all based on the reasonable assumption that work would proceed as planned.

We are also distressed to learn that the Indian River bridge replacement may also be delayed. As you may recall, the base of the bridge was damaged by a storm two years ago and repairs made then were temporary. A change in schedule directly affects the Thimbleberry Heart Lake trail project because Sitka Trail Works had planned to recycle the old bridge stringers into bridges on the new trail. The trail construction contract is out for bid with work planned for the spring of 2006.

Please do anything and everything in your power to assure that these projects takes place in the upcoming construction season.

Yours Truly,


Deborah Lyons

C.C.: Andy Hughes Regional Planning Chief AKDOT P&F

Sitka Trail Works Mission Statement: To contribute to the overall health of the community through the development, maintenance and promotion of a comprehensive trail system in the Sitka area.